

Minutes, Public Works Committee Meeting 6 June 2008

Present: Rob Crowner (Chair); Steve Braun, Mike Cann, Don George, Charlie Moran, Vince O'Connor; Guilford Mooring (Superintendent).

1. Administrative

Minutes of February 2008 not yet available from Vince O'Connor.

Minutes of May 2008: **Voted to accept, 4-0.**

Next Meeting: first Tuesday in August, August 5.

2. Updates

Guilford Mooring: because the cost of materials has risen, DPW won't be able to do as much repaving this summer. Asphalt up 25%--600/ton of liquid asphalt. Solid--80-90/ton.

Therefore he suggests that this summer we take a "band-aid approach" to work on Pelham Road, --making most of the road passable: that we hold to our plans for North Pleasant Street and Henry Street, and use what's left for work on Pelham Road.

Street and Sidewalk Projects, Summer 2008

There was a lengthy discussion about how best to do the work that can be done on Pelham Road. Mooring presented what he sees to be the options: 1) grind and resurface the road from house # 69 to Conservation Area and do an overlay from house # 323-to the Town line; or 2) grind and re-pave the road from Heatherstone to the Town Line. He can do Henry Street and Pelham Road before July 4; then North Pleasant.

As the conversation turned to thickness of paving, Mike Cann said that in his view the Committee was getting into things that we should not--beyond purview of committee to be micromanaging DPW. Don George agreed.

Guilford Mooring offered that the Committee should be considering how best DPW should spend its resources. Given that we can't do everything, what should we do?

Moved: that the Committee stands by its earlier recommendation: that for road work in the 2008 season the repair and improvement of Pelham Road is its highest priority, after North Pleasant Street (Amity to East Pleasant) and the completion of Henry Street. **Voted: 6-0.**

This was voted with the understanding that for this year DPW would do a thorough job on Pelham Road on the East end, and would patch the rest as best they can.

East Leverett Road bridge: no news. Guilford Mooring reported that the construction work there is moving fast. One abutment is in, the other on the way. Might be done by November-December.

PWC and SME Status: No developments on this front.

3. New Business

Road Repairs subcommittee: next steps. Steve asked Guilford Mooring how the subcommittee could be most effective and helpful. In particular, how much money/year should they plan on asking for? Mooring said that 2M/year is all he can do, for a number of reasons.

Subcommittee meeting time and place established: Tuesday, June 17th, 9:00. At the conference room at the Public Works building.

North Pleasant Street sidewalk, west side plan review: **Moved:** that the Committee approves of the plan, with these exceptions: the Committee recommends west-side version with parallel, not angled, parking; and that the radius and depth of the bump-out by Food for Thought be reduced to improve bicycle safety at that point. **Voted 5-0.**

4. Announcements

Atkins Corner 25% Hearing: June 16, 7:00 pm. Red Barn.

5. Other

Vince: argued that making intersection traffic-control lights responsive should be a high priority, because this would save energy and increase general happiness. Guilford Mooring noted that lights and controllers will cost \$20,000 /intersection, on average, depending upon the capabilities of the present controllers. He has the camera and related parts for one new light now, but does not have the money to pay an electrician to do the installation.

The chair requested that the road repair subcommittee consider incorporating Vince's ideas in its work. Additionally, Vince raised the issue of pursuing a funding source for road repair through the Select Board and Town Manager and Charlie suggested an approach of first describing the problem and then proposing possible solutions, which the chair also requested be taken up by the subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Moran, Sec'y *pro tem*.